
SENATE BILL 5479

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Clements, Holmquist, Rasmussen, Eide, Oemig and Benton

Read first time 01/22/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to classified staff to student ratios; amending RCW
2 28A.150.260; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that classified school
5 employees are an integral part of the K-12 school system of services
6 and supports to students. The public school system would not function
7 without the significant contributions of these employees. These
8 services range from maintaining our investment in the physical plants;
9 keeping our schools sanitary and clean; getting students safely to and
10 from school; maintaining a safe and secure environment; providing
11 health services, food services, and clerical and financial support
12 services; and providing library assistance and instructional assistance
13 to students in the classroom, as well as many other invaluable supports
14 to students, parents, and other staff within the school community. The
15 legislature believes the contribution of classified school employees
16 can and should be enhanced to help all students succeed.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.260 and 2006 c 263 s 322 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

1 The basic education allocation for each annual average full-time
2 equivalent student shall be determined in accordance with the following
3 procedures:

4 (1) The governor shall and the superintendent of public instruction
5 may recommend to the legislature a formula based on a ratio of students
6 to staff for the distribution of a basic education allocation for each
7 annual average full-time equivalent student enrolled in a common
8 school. The distribution formula shall have the primary objective of
9 equalizing educational opportunities and shall provide appropriate
10 recognition of the following costs among the various districts within
11 the state:

12 (a) Certificated instructional staff and their related costs;

13 (b) Certificated administrative staff and their related costs;

14 (c) Classified staff and their related costs;

15 (d) Nonsalary costs;

16 (e) Extraordinary costs, including school facilities, of remote and
17 necessary schools as judged by the superintendent of public
18 instruction, with recommendations from the school facilities citizen
19 advisory panel under RCW 28A.525.025, and small high schools, including
20 costs of additional certificated and classified staff; and

21 (f) The attendance of students pursuant to RCW 28A.335.160 and
22 28A.225.250 who do not reside within the servicing school district.

23 (2)(a) This formula for distribution of basic education funds shall
24 be reviewed biennially by the superintendent and governor. The
25 recommended formula shall be subject to approval, amendment or
26 rejection by the legislature. The formula shall be for allocation
27 purposes only. While the legislature intends that the allocations for
28 additional instructional staff be used to increase the ratio of such
29 staff to students, nothing in this section shall require districts to
30 reduce the number of administrative staff below existing levels.

31 (b) The formula adopted by the legislature shall reflect the
32 following ratios at a minimum: (i) Forty-nine certificated
33 instructional staff to one thousand annual average full-time equivalent
34 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; (ii) forty-six
35 certificated instructional staff to one thousand annual average
36 full-time equivalent students in grades four through twelve; (iii) four
37 certificated administrative staff to one thousand annual average
38 full-time equivalent students in grades kindergarten through twelve;

1 and (iv) (~~sixteen and sixty seven one hundredths classified personnel~~
2 ~~to one thousand~~) one classified staff unit for each forty annual
3 average full-time equivalent students enrolled in grades kindergarten
4 through twelve.

5 (c) In the event the legislature rejects the distribution formula
6 recommended by the governor, without adopting a new distribution
7 formula, the distribution formula for the previous school year shall
8 remain in effect: PROVIDED, That the distribution formula developed
9 pursuant to this section shall be for state apportionment and
10 equalization purposes only and shall not be construed as mandating
11 specific operational functions of local school districts other than
12 those program requirements identified in RCW 28A.150.220 and
13 28A.150.100. The enrollment of any district shall be the annual
14 average number of full-time equivalent students and part-time students
15 as provided in RCW 28A.150.350, enrolled on the first school day of
16 each month and shall exclude full-time equivalent students with
17 disabilities recognized for the purposes of allocation of state funds
18 for programs under RCW 28A.155.010 through 28A.155.100. The definition
19 of full-time equivalent student shall be determined by rules of the
20 superintendent of public instruction: PROVIDED, That the definition
21 shall be included as part of the superintendent's biennial budget
22 request: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That any revision of the present
23 definition shall not take effect until approved by the house
24 appropriations committee and the senate ways and means committee:
25 PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the office of financial management shall make
26 a monthly review of the superintendent's reported full-time equivalent
27 students in the common schools in conjunction with RCW 43.62.050.

28 (3)(a) Certificated instructional staff shall include those persons
29 employed by a school district who are nonsupervisory employees within
30 the meaning of RCW 41.59.020(8): PROVIDED, That in exceptional cases,
31 people of unusual competence but without certification may teach
32 students so long as a certificated person exercises general
33 supervision: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the hiring of such classified
34 people shall not occur during a labor dispute and such classified
35 people shall not be hired to replace certificated employees during a
36 labor dispute.

37 (b) Certificated administrative staff shall include all those

1 persons who are chief executive officers, chief administrative
2 officers, confidential employees, supervisors, principals, or assistant
3 principals within the meaning of RCW 41.59.020(4).

--- END ---